

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A catalyst composition represented by the general formula, REVO/S, wherein:

RE is at least one of the group of rare earth metals Y, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy, Er and Yb in an amount of up to 6.0 wt.-%;

V is vanadium in an amount of 0.2-2.5 wt.-%;

O is oxygen in an amount of up to 3.5 wt.-%; and

S is a support containing TiO₂ in an amount of at least 70 wt.-%, WO₃ in an amount of 5-20 wt.-%, and optionally SiO₂ in an amount of up to 15 wt.-%.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The catalyst composition according to claim 1, characterized in that RE is at least one of the group of Pr, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er and particularly one of the group of Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The catalyst composition according to claim 2, characterized in that RE is at least one of Er and Tb.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The catalyst composition according to claim 1 characterized in that S contains SiO₂ in an amount of 4-12 wt.-%, particularly in an amount of 5-10 wt.-%.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the preparation of a catalyst composition, comprising:

contacting a solid support containing TiO_2 in an amount of at least 70 wt.-%, WO_3 in an amount of 5-20 wt.-%, and ~~optionally~~ SiO_2 in an amount of up to 15 wt.-% with an aqueous solution containing a vanadium salt and a salt of at least one rare earth metal selected from the group of Y, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy, Er and Yb to give a slurry which is brought to dryness and calcined.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the preparation of a catalyst composition, comprising:

contacting a solid support containing TiO_2 in an amount of at least 70 wt.-%, WO_3 in an amount of 5-20 wt.-%, and ~~optionally~~ SiO_2 in an amount of up to 15 wt.-% with a vanadium salt and a hydroxide of at least one rare earth metal selected from the group of Y, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy, Er and Yb to give a slurry which is brought to dryness and calcined.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the preparation of a catalyst composition, comprising:

contacting a solid support containing TiO_2 in an amount of at least 70 wt.-%, WO_3 in an amount of 5-20 wt.-%, and ~~optionally~~ SiO_2 in an amount of up to 15 wt.-% with a vanadate (REVO_4) of at least one rare earth metal selected from the group of Y, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy, Er and Yb to give a slurry which is brought to dryness and calcined.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A process according to claim 5, characterized in that the rare earth metal is at least one of the group of Pr, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er ~~and particularly one of the group of Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er.~~

9. **(Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 6, characterized in that the rare earth metal is at least one of Tb and Er.

10. (Previously Presented) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 5.

11. (Currently Amended) A catalyst composition according to claim 10, containing:

said rare earth metal in an amount of up to 6.0 wt.-%;

vanadium in an amount of up to 2.5 wt.-%;

oxygen in an amount of up to 3.5 wt.-%;

TiO₂ in an amount of at least 65 wt.-%;

WO₃ in an amount of up to 20 wt.-%; and

~~optionally~~ SiO₂ in an amount of up to 15 wt.-%.

12. (Currently Amended) The catalyst composition according to claim 2, characterized in that S contains SiO₂ in an amount of 4-12 wt.-%, ~~particularly in an amount of 5-10 wt.-%.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The catalyst composition according to claim 3, characterized in that S contains SiO₂ in an amount of 4-12 wt.-%, ~~particularly in an amount of 5-10 wt.-%.~~

14. (Previously Presented) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 6.

15. (Previously Presented) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 7.

16. (Previously Presented) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 8.

17. (Previously Presented) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 9.

18. (New) The catalyst composition according to claim 2, characterized in that RE is at least one of the group of Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er.

19. (New) The catalyst composition according to claim 4 characterized in that S contains SiO₂ in an amount of 5-10 wt.-%.

20. (New) A process according to claim 8, characterized in that the rare earth metal is at least one of the group of Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er.